

REMARKS

Claim 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Donnelly, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,143,658. Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Donnelly, Jr. et al., and further in view of Auto 306 Thin Film Deposition System Data Sheet. Finally, claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Donnelly, Jr. et al., in view of Auto 306 Thin Film Deposition System Data Sheet, and further in view of Takagi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,174,796 B1.

Claim 2 provides that the step of cleaning the second step via hole does not use an organic gas.

In contrast, the step of cleaning in Donnelly, Jr. et al. includes an Hhfac (hexafluoro-acetyl-acetone) gas, an organic gas, exposure, according to the Examiner, (Office Action, page 2, paragraph 5, lines 8-10).

If organic gas is utilized for the instant invention, as explained on page 9, lines 26-29 of the specification, a separate problem would arise in that contamination, caused by re-deposition of carbon generated by dissolution of the organic gas, will appear. In the present invention, by solving the above-mentioned problem, a cleaner process for eliminating oxides of copper can be realized.

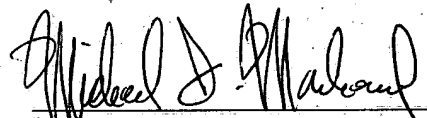
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claim 2 is in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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